

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coordinate input apparatus for calculating a coordinate corresponding to a position of a light spot with which an input screen is irradiated, comprising:

5 a sensor array configured in such a manner that a plurality of optical conversion elements is arranged;

coordinate computing means for successively calculating coordinate data of the light spot from the output of the sensor array; and

10 determining means for determining a readout portion of the sensor array from the coordinate data whose ordinal number precedes a predetermined ordinal number, at the time of calculating the coordinate data of the predetermined ordinal number,

15 wherein the coordinate computing means calculates the coordinate data of the ordinal number based on the output from the readout portion determined by the determining means.

20 2. A coordinate input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of optical/electrical conversion elements of the sensor array is linearly arranged, and wherein the coordinate data of the light spot can be read out with each of blocks into which the
25 sensor array is split as a unit.

3. A coordinate input apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein the coordinate computing means calculates the coordinate data from a peak value of the output of the sensor array.

5 4. A coordinate input apparatus according to claim
2, wherein the coordinate computing means characterized
by performing focus adjustment so that the width of the
image of the light spot is several times as large as
the pixel of the optical/ electrical conversion element
10 calculates the coordinate data from the peak value of
the output of the sensor array.

5. A coordinate input apparatus according to any
one of claims 1 to 4, wherein coordinate computing
15 means characterized by performing focus adjustment so
that the width of the image of the light spot is
several times as large as the pixel of the
optical/electrical conversion element calculates the
coordinate data from the peak value of the output of
20 the sensor array.

6. A coordinate inputting method of applying
irradiation light to a predetermined position on an
image input screen by operation of a designation device
25 to generate a light spot, and obtaining coordinate data
of the light spot by optical/electrical conversion of a
sensor array, comprising steps of:

determining a readout portion of the sensor array from the coordinate data whose ordinal number equals a number immediately before a predetermined ordinal number, at the time of calculating coordinate data of
5 the predetermined ordinal number, and

obtaining an output partially from a predetermined number of optical/electrical conversion elements corresponding to the readout portion determined in the sensor array, calculating the coordinate data of the
10 predetermined ordinal number, and generating a coordinate output signal corresponding to a predetermined position of the coordinate input screen.

7. A coordinate inputting method according to
15 claim 6, wherein the each photo-electric element is linearly arranged, and wherein readout is performed with each predetermined block into which the sensor array is split as a unit.

20 8. A coordinate inputting method according to claim 6, wherein the coordinate data is calculated from the peak value of the output of the sensor array.

9. A coordinate inputting method according to
25 claim 7, wherein the coordinate data is calculated from the peak value of the output of the sensor array.

10. A coordinate inputting method according to any one of claims 6 to 9, wherein focus adjustment is performed so that the image of the light spot has an image width several times as large as the pixel of the optical/electrical conversion element.

11. An information display system configured such a manner as to comprise:

a coordinate input apparatus applying light from a designation device to a coordinate input screen to generate a light spot, and detecting the light spot to generate a coordinate output signal corresponding to a predetermined position of the coordinate input screen; and

a display projecting information inputted by the coordinate input apparatus onto the coordinate input screen, based on the coordinate output signal,

the coordinate input apparatus, comprising:

a sensor array configured in such a manner that a plurality of optical/electrical conversion elements is arranged;

coordinate computing means for successively calculating coordinate data of the light spot from the output of the sensor array; and

determining means for determining a readout portion of the sensor array from the coordinate data whose ordinal number precedes a predetermined ordinal

number, at the time of calculating the coordinate data of the predetermined ordinal number,

wherein the coordinate computing means calculates the coordinate data of the predetermined ordinal
5 number, based on the output from the readout portion determined by the determining means.

12. An information display system according to claim 11, wherein the sensor array is configured in
10 such a manner that a plurality of photo-electric elements is linearly arranged, and readout is possible with each predetermined block into which the sensor array is split as a unit.

15 13. An information display system according to claim 11, wherein the coordinate computing means calculates the coordinate data from the peak value of the output of the sensor array.

20 14. An information display system according to claim 12, wherein the coordinate computing means calculates the coordinate data from the peak value of the output of the sensor array.

25 15. An information display system according to claim 11, wherein the designation device has light emission control means for controlling an emission

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19. A computer readable memory for storing a

computer program executing computers, wherein the computer is the coordinate computing means or determining means according to claim 3.

5 20. A computer readable memory for storing a computer program executing computers, wherein the computer is the coordinate computing means or determining means according to claim 4.

10 21. A computer readable memory for storing a computer program executing the steps of the method according to claim 5.

15 22. A computer readable memory for storing a computer program executing the steps of the method according to claim 6.

20 23. A computer readable memory for storing a computer program executing the steps of the method according to claim 7.

25 24. A computer readable memory for storing a computer program executing the steps of the method according to claim 8.

25 25. A computer readable memory for storing a computer program executing the steps of the method

according to claim 9.

26. A computer readable memory for storing a
computer program executing the steps of the method
5 according to claim 10.

27. A coordinate input apparatus for calculating
a coordinate corresponding to a position of a light
spot with which an input screen is irradiated,
10 comprising:

a sensor array configured in such a manner that a
plurality of optical/electrical conversion elements is
arranged;

coordinate computing means for successively
15 calculating coordinate data of the light spot from the
output of the sensor array; and

determining means for determining a readout-start
portion of the sensor array from the coordinate data
whose ordinal number precedes a predetermined ordinal
20 number, at the time of calculating the coordinate data
of the predetermined ordinal number,

wherein the coordinate computing means calculates
the coordinate data of the ordinal number based on the
output from the readout-start portion determined by the
25 determining means.

28. A coordinate input apparatus according to

claim 27,

wherein the determining means further predicts
order of readout of the sensor array predicted from the
coordinate data whose ordinal number precedes the
predetermined ordinal number, and

if there is no output from the readout-start
portion determined by the determining means,

readout is performed in accordance with the order.

29. A coordinate inputting method of applying
irradiation light to a predetermined position on an
image input screen by operation of a designation device
to generate a light spot, and obtaining coordinate data
of the light spot by optical/electrical conversion of a
sensor array, comprising steps of:

determining a readout-start portion of the sensor
array from the coordinate data whose ordinal number
equals a number immediately before a predetermined
ordinal number, at the time of calculating coordinate
data of the predetermined ordinal number; and

obtaining an output partially from a predetermined
number of optical/electrical conversion elements
corresponding to the readout portion determined in the
sensor array, calculating the coordinate data of the
predetermined ordinal number, and generating a
coordinate output signal corresponding to a
predetermined position of the coordinate input screen.

30. A coordinate inputting method according to claim 29, in the determination, order of readout of the sensor array predicted from the coordinate data whose ordinal number precedes the predetermined ordinal number is further predicted, and

if there is no output from the readout-start portion determined by the determining means, readout is performed in accordance with the order.

31. A program for executing processing procedures of the coordinate inputting method according to claim 6.

32. A computer readable memory storing a program for executing processing procedures of the coordinate inputting method according to claim 29.

33. A program for executing processing procedures of the coordinate inputting method according to claim 29.